

2  
[Title of "Penny Coin"]

by Samuel S. Cohen, Jr.

In each issue of this publication has had some excellent Penny Columns. Even though Half Cents are no more produced, I have attempted to answer some of them. On one occasion there were questions dealing with Half Cents, and the interest of today's collector was one of our visitors and limited. It does not have a better response to this year.

This time I want to turn the tables. The last Penny Column (Vol. 3, 12/31) had collected on Large Cents. you had written questions, it is one will have five and one-half. The questions, with one exception, relate to both Large and Half Cents, so, even if you don't collect the "Little Old Penny," you have a chance:

1. Many early numismatic books on both Large and Half Cents. These writings were usually combined into a separate work, such as (a) Huggins's 1837 book, "The U. S. Coins and Half Cents, 1793-1857" (b) Huggins, and others, "The U. S. Coins and Half Cents, 1793-1857" (c) Huggins, and others, "The U. S. Coins and Half Cents, 1793-1857". The two on Large Cents like on both one date. The one on Half Cents covered the entire series. See the author.
2. During the period 1793-1857 there were slightly over 157,000,000 Large Cents coined (including Proofs). During this same period there were slightly under 8,000,000 Half Cents struck, which gives approximately the Half Cent for every twenty Large Cents. During the period of the early 1800s Large Cents, 1793-1810, there was a different ratio of Half Cents to Large Cents. How many Large Cents were coined during this period for each Half Cent?
3. It has been stated that the Half Cent was a miniature of the Large Cent during the period of the 1800s, and there was one obverse design which was not used on the Large Cent. That was the Liberty Head design issued in 1793. However, there were other obverse designs and one reverse design of the Large Cent which were not used on the Half Cent. How many?
4. The 1804 Large Cent is somewhat worn with the breaks on the reverse side as on the obverse. Interestingly enough, there exists in the 1804 Half Cent obverse a similar break. How the half cent was made when finished the obverse side break and the two varieties of the 1804 Half Cent are identical. A similar reverse break.
5. In addition to being made in larger quantities, the Large Cent, during the period 1793-1857, has many more varieties (0001). The Half Cent has a total of 10 for the same period, which is approximately one-eighth the number of varieties. However, in some years there are more varieties than the Half Cent than the Large Cent. How many? In addition, in the years in which both were coined, the number of varieties of each?
6. This question relates strictly to Half Cents, as with count of only half cent coins. In 1924, the U. S. Treasury issued the Indian Head obverse of Half Cents, which was officially coined in great variety (over 1000). For the years 1793-1907, there were several of a variety of the coin. How many of each were produced in the 1900s?





WARREN A. LAPP, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
731 EAST 22ND STREET  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11210

June 13, 1972

Dear Roger:

Congratulations! Your "Half of Penny Quiz" is wonderful!

It has been made up as follows.....copy enclosed....which I hope meets with your approval.

We would like to include your item in the July 15 issue of P-W.

With your permission, I would like to include the following item below your final lines:

EDITOR'S NOTE: Need the Editor remind you that owning Cohen's new book AMERICAN HALF CENTS, "The Little Half Sisters" would go a long way towards helping you to answer the above quiz? Roger has written just as fine and interesting a book on U.S. half cents as the above quiz indicates. The Editor highly recommends to all EAC members both the book and the quiz. And, in addition to the prize which Roger has offered above, P-W will send a small token award to all members who participate. Deadline for answers is August 15.


I have been noticing the reviews which your book has been getting and all rate it most highly. You did a swell job!

Hope to hear from you soon regarding above.

Have a pleasant summer.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

  
Warren A. Lapp, M.D.

P.S. Obviously, if the above quiz is printed in the next issue, I'll expect you to supply me with the correct answers plus the names of those who participated and the high scorers on or about August 29. That is why I set the August 15 deadline for answers, so that you would have time to prepare your report!

ROGER S. ROSEN, JR.  
4730 WOODBURY LANE  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

6/15/72

Dear Warren,

Thanks for a first class editing job. I made some slight changes which I enclose. I'm doing this as some answers may be too literal.

Att. C.K. To put your editors Note although it might be taken as free advertising.

I will send you the answers by August 29th for inclusion in the Sept. 15 P-W.

Again many thanks.

Sincerely

Rosen

Dear Roger -

RE your quiz on "The Little Sisters"

- (1) Ebenezer Gilbert "The U.S. Half Cents from 1793-1857"  
 " " "The Varieties of the U.S. Cents of 1796"

- (2) Approximately 4.3 large cents for each half cent.

- (3) Obverse designs not used on half cent:

1. Flowing hair, head facing right, ie. <sup>the</sup>a "chain cent"
2. " " " " " " , plus sprig of 3 leaves  
on a stem, ie. that of a "wreath cent" of 1793
3. Coronet Head of 1816-1830

Reverse design not used on half cent:

1. The chain reverse of 1793

- (4) The 1804 half cent, variety C-9 is reported to frequently have a heavy border break over RTY of liberty.

The 1804 varieties C-6 and C-7 are reported to frequently show rim breaks over MERIC of America.

- (5) Years with more half cent varieties than large cent varieties:

1804	13	to	1
1805	4	to	3
1806	4	to	1
1809	6	to	1

Years in which numbers of varieties were equal:

1808	3 to 3
1811	2 to 2

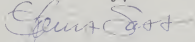
ALSD → 1832      3 to 3 (ignoring double profiles)

- (5-1/2) Unfortunately, I'm not familiar with the Alvord collection, or with S.H. Chapman's grading tendencies, and have no ready source to which I can turn to develop an answer for

this question. However, I've come this far with your "quiz" and I'm not about to give up. So, based on some indirect research and several hunch factors that come to mind - I'll simply GUESS that five of the 56 coins were catalogued as uncirculated. And that's it.

Thanks for the fun you provided !

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louis C. Sass", written in a cursive style.

Louis C. Sass

4 1/2

P.O. Box 56  
East Granby, Conn. 06026  
July 20, 1972

Roger S. Cohen, Jr.  
4720 Montgomery Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Roger:

I continue to admire your book on "the little half-sisters," and am pleased to have a copy (mine came by way of Ralph Langham). And now, I'm impressed, too, with your "Half of Penny Quiz" in the latest Penny-Wise. I'm not all that great on half-cents, but the quiz intrigued me, so I hauled out nearly everything I own on half-cents and large cents and went to work. Here's what I came up with:

1. The author is Ebenezer Gilbert (his book on cents covered the '96s).
2. If my quick addition is fairly close, there were a few more than 5.2 million half-cents struck from 1793 through 1814, and a few over 22.4 million cents. This makes the ratio of cents to half-cents slightly under 4.3 to 1.
3. The one reverse is easy - the Chain reverse was never used on half-cents. But I make it four obverses not used, rather than three. The Flowing Hair of '93, the Coronet of 1816-39, the Booby Head of 1839, and the Silly Head of 1839. (The Red Book lists a few more styles of head on the large cent, but I think they're straining at gnats!)
4. The obverse break you're looking for would seem to be Cohen #8; the reverses Cohen #s 6 and 7.
5. There seem to be four years with more varieties of half-cent than of cent: 1804 (13:1), 1805 (4:3), 1806 (4:1), and 1809 (6:1). But, again, I disagree with you on the other part, for I also find four years with equal numbers of varieties: 1808 (3), 1811 (2), 1815 (0), and 1832 (3). I give you the benefit of the doubt in not counting 1815, but it is included in the time span you specify. Even if we omit that, though, there are still 3, not 2 years of equal varieties. (Might you have forgotten to go on to 1832?)
- 5 1/2. Sorry, I can't do a thing with this one. I neither own nor have access to the Chapman catalog, which seems to be the only place the answer might be found, as I looked for it in your book, but didn't find anything on the subject.

Enjoyed your company at the EAC meeting in New York - hope to see you again at the next.

Regards,  
*Charles*  
Charles E. Funk, Jr.  
EAC # 59



Thomas P. Wolf EAC #31  
420 NE 7 Ave.  
Hialeah, Fla. 33010

Penny Quiz Answers

- #1. Ebenezer Gilbert wrote "United States Half Cents", &, with Elder, wrote "The Varieties of the US Cents of 1796."
- #2. About 4.47 cents to each  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent.
- #3. Reverse: Chain Cent of 1793.  
Obverse: 1. Flowing Hair of 1793  
2. Head Style 1816-1835  
3. Head Style 1835-1839
- #4. Obverse cracks as Gilbert #5  
Reverse cracks as " #8
- #5. More  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents in 1804, 1805, 1806, 1809.  
Same ~~XXXXXX~~ number in 1808 & 1811.
- #5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . I have no idea at all. I've pored thru my limited library, but I can't find any information on the Alvord collection. I'LL take a wild guess, & say....49.

420 NE 7 Ave.  
Hialeah, Fla. 33010

Dear Roger,

I am a died in the wool devotee of the Sheldon series of Large Cents, but I only own a couple half cents. I took a stab at your quiz, & found myself a little more interested in the half cents than I had been before. Anyway, my answers are enclosed.

I have also enclosed a few foil pressings of large cents. I'm sending them only to show you what a nice job one of these presses will do. If you do much trading, selling or attributing by mail, a press will save you a lot of worry & postage. As you've probably seen in Penny-Wise, I occasionally have a few of the smaller presses that I sell to EAC members for \$10. Just now, the only spare press I have is a slightly larger model. I'd guess it weighs  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 lbs. I don't know if you'd be interested in it or not, but if you can use it, I'll trade it even for an autographed copy of your fine book. Incidentally, there's no need to return the foil pressings. Just throw them away.

I'm afraid I'm going to miss ANA in New Orleans. I'm a fireman here in Miami, & all vacations have been cancelled until after the Republican convention. However, we'll be holding our big show here in Miami in early January, & we try to get as many EAC members here as possible. Keep us in mind if you can spare a few days in Jan.

Keep in touch,



Thomas P. Wolf EAC #31

23 July 1972

4/4

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I enjoyed your "Half of Penny Quiz" and my attempts to answer the questions follows:

① #1 - Ebenezer Gilbert

- a) The United States Half Cents
- b) United States Cents of 1796

②  $3\frac{1}{2}$  #2 - approximately 4 + ~~1000~~

③ #3 - Reverse - Chain  
Obverse - Flowing hair  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Coronet 1816-35  
- 2<sup>d</sup> Coronet 1835-37

④ #4 - 1 - obv - <sup>CCM</sup> #9  
2 - rev - CCM #6  
3 - rev - CCM #7

⑤ #5 - more years.  
1804, 1805, 1806, 1809

equal years.  
1808, 1811

⑥ #5½ 42?

I have enjoyed your book on half cents very much and being as I have only been collecting coppers about 3 year - it has been a great help to me as well. Cents and half cents are a little scarce up here. in Minnesota, but we keep trying.

Hope you get a good response to this Quiz and that you will

consider ~~any~~ another

yours in EAC

L.A. Johnson

1831 Anderson Road

Duluth MN 55811

EAC #186

9760 Burgess ave  
Oakland CA 94605  
Sunday July 23 1972

Dear Roger,

1- Gilbert

2 Half cents 1793 - 1811 5,245,512

Large cents 1793 - 1814 22,546,890

1 half cent to 4.3 (appx) lg cents.

3 Chain, wreath, Jefferson, Cham Rev.

4 G 4, G 10, G 8, G 9,

5 1804, 1805, 1806, 1809

1808 - 1811

6 ?

Carl Windsor

9760 Burgos ave  
Oakland CA 94605  
Sunday, July, 23, 1972

Dear Roger,

It was fun trying to answer your Half of Penny Quiz. I can see I do need your book, find check enclosed with Quiz answers. I would like to see your collection. My collection of Half cents is very small. I have collected by dates, my 1793 - a F-12, No 1796, 1802/1800 F-15, 1804 B-1-2-3-4-7, 1805- 1/5 S-5 1806 S-6 S-7, S-8 S-9, 1808/9 1809 - 9/6 & circle, 1811-F, 1828 12\* AV-50, Rest EF TO BU 65. I try to upgrade when I can. Lg cents & Half cents are scarce around these parts, are you a dealer? Do you have any extras for sale?

As to my Lg cents I have 425 Varieties of late dates. That has been a job. Some times I display the half cents by year with the large cents by year. I just added a 1794 - S-72 35/35 light tan to my early dates. Well I don't want to bore you too much. So in closing I am looking forward to reading your book.

Sincerely

Carl Windon

Rec'd Carl  
11/72

P.S. I am trying to get a group of EAC Members to gather Sept 23 1972 during the Northern Cal Numismatic Coin Show.

Answers to "Half of Penny Quing" - WRT Smith

① Ebenezer Gilbert, Jr.

(A) "United States Half Cents"

(B) "The Varieties of the United States Cents of 1796" (with Thomas L. Elder)

② Number of Half Cents 1793-1811 = 5,235,516 (Cohen)

" " hge " 1793-1814 = 4,757,722 (Breen)

" " " " 1793-1814 = 4,859,722 (Yeoman)

③ Ratio of  $\frac{LC}{HC} = 0.909$  (Breen) or  $= 0.928$  (Yeoman)  
(SEE NEXT PAGE)

④ (A) Obr. Rim Break

1. CMM #9 (G-5A) - almost blew this one looking at the pressing of the G-7A

(B) Rev. Rim Breaks

1. CMM #6 (G-8A)

2. CMM #7 (G-9)

⑤ (A) MORE 1/2 & VARIETIES

1. 1804

2. 1805

3. 1806

4. 1809

(B) SAME # of VARIETIES

1. 1808

2. 1811 (excluding mistake)

⑤ 1/2 Number cataloged as uncirculated = 8 (out of 72 not 56?)

1. 1793 G-4

5. 1795 G-3

2. 1794 G-1

6. 1795 G-3

3. 1794 G-4

7. 1795 G-5

4. 1795 G-1

8. 1795 G-8

③

⑧ REVERSE TYPE

1. Chain Reverses of 1793 (S1-S4)

⑨ OBVERSE TYPE

1. Flowing Hair of 1793 - facing right (S1-S4)
2. Coronet Heads of 1816-1839 (except 1839 N-8)
3. Gasp! - Since you did not count the half cent caps without poles as a distinct obverse type I would eliminate the 1793 wreaths with leaf sprigs or the 1793 wreaths and caps with beaded borders. The Jefferson head is a cap (pattern or trial sample). I can't see lumping Coronet heads #28 - #5 into one category and saying they are different unless you want to hear about plain hair cords. The other style which comes to mind is the Draped bust 1796 to 1798 without the added curl 592-5164. I guess this has to be my first choice of an answer since it closely relates to the draped busts in the half cent series but never appears.  
(I have the distinct feeling I muffed this one)



7/29/72  
E. B. Bunker  
115 00216

Hi Roger -

Here are my answers to your  
"Half a Penny Query". I hope you get  
many responses.

1. Ebenezer Gilbert was the author.  
He wrote on the entire  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ series  
and combined with Dean to  
write about the 1796 1¢.  
Source: Guide Book of U.S. Coins

2. The ratio of 1¢ to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for  
1793-1814 is approx 4.5 to 1.  
Source: Guide Book of U.S. Coins

3. A. The three obverse designs are:  
① 1793 - Dashed Lines  
② 1793 - " " " with overlapping  
③ 1816-1839 - Coronet

B. The one reverse design is:  
1793 - Chain

4. The similar obverse break is 1804 cmm#9  
The two reverses with similar reverse  
break is 1804 cmm#5 & 6.  
Source: American Half Cents

(over)

- ⑤ The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d with more varieties than 1¢ are ① 1804, 13-1 ② 1805, 4-3, ③ 1806, 4-1 ④ 1809, 6-1.

The years with <sup>the</sup> same # are:

- ① 1808 - 3 each ② 1811 - 2 each

Source: American Half Cents, Penns  
Whitney & US Copper Cents 1816-1857

- ⑥ 5/6. I cannot answer this question as I do not have a copy of the catalog of the Alwood collection.

Do you know where I can buy a copy of the Alwood Catalog and the catalog of the Barber Collection by Stokes in 1963? Feeling this way I borrow them so I can make copies for myself?

Have you obtained any of the last 3 coins to complete your set?  
Happy Hunting!

Bob Yuell  
24 Formosa Rd.  
E. Brunswick NJ  
08816

GORDON HARNACK

PHILIP WAGNER

MEMBERS ANA & EAC

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3 1/2

## ANSWERS TO "HALF OF PENNY QUIZ"

1. NO AUTHOR - ELDER PUBLISHED GILBERTS EFFORTS ON THE 1796's FROM HIS LOOSE NOTES WITHOUT GILBERTS PRIOR KNOWLEDGE! (PENNEY WHIMSEY p. 22).
2. 1793 - 1814  $\frac{1}{2}$  ¢ 5.3 million  
1793 - 1814 1 ¢ 22.5 million  
RATIO OF 4 Lg CT to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  CENT.
3. OBVERSE
  - a) Flowing HAIR HEAD LIB. FACING RT ('93)  
+ their SUBVARIETIES - STRAWBERRY LEAF & LEAF BTW  
DATE & BUST
  - b) CORONET HEAD
  - c) BEADED CORD - 3RD HEAD STYLE (1837-31)
  - d) Silly HEAD - 4th " " (1839 ONLY)
  - e) Barby " - 5th " " (1839 ONLY)
- REVERSE
  - a) CHAIN REVERSE
  - b) There are some small, medium & large letter  
reverse 1816-57 which might be considered.
4. OBVERSE R.B. CMM #9  
Reverses - CMM #6 & 7.

★ LARGE CENTS ★ INDIAN HEAD CENTS ★ SHIELD NICKELS ★ BUFFALO NICKELS ★ HALF DIMES ★

★ DIMES ★ QUARTERS ★ HALF DOLLARS ★ DOLLARS ★ GOLD ★ ANCIENTS ★ FOREIGN ★

(1) 5. a) MORE  $\frac{1}{2}$  CENT VARIETIES

1804

1805

1806

1809

b) EQUAL VARIETIES

1808

1811

(0)  $5\frac{1}{2}$  A SHOT IN THE DARK

about ~~30~~ pieces

I'm assuming complete (almost)

1825-57

and most of those that were  
common enough in the earlier  
dates also being unc.

Jordan Zernach

5K  
P. O. Box 658  
Claremont, NH 03743  
July 31, 1972

Dear Roger Cohen,

Here is my entry in the Penny-Wise "HALF of PENNY QUIZ," pp. 158-59 of the latest issue. I think you threw us a couple of real trap questions--or else you didn't score 100% either???

Q. #1. Name the author who wrote separate books on half cents and on (just one date) of large cents; his half cent book covered the entire series. Well, the answer you must be looking for is Ebenezer Gilbert. He wrote the entire date span for half cents, and he is co-credited with Thomas Elder for the 1796 work on large cents. I wouldn't really say Gilbert "wrote" a book on the 1796 cents, tho. Per page 22, Sheldon's Penny Whimsy, "In 1909 Elder brought out a brochure called United States Cents of 1796, also illustrated from Gilbert's collection, and in this instance the descriptive matter was taken almost entirely from a sheaf of Gilbert's loose notes. (Gilbert afterwards protested goodnaturedly that he never intended that material to be published, since he knew it to be both incomplete and in some respects inaccurate.)"

Q. #2. For the period 1793-1814, how many large cents were coined for each half cent? I added them up, using Guidebook mintages, and got 5,235,512 half cents, 22,510,787 cents, for a ratio of 4.3 to 1, or about 4 to 1; 4 cents for each half cent.

Q. #3. "There were three obverse designs and one reverse design of the large cent which were not used on the half cent. Name them." The reverse first, obviously the Chain Type. For obverses, I find two "types": (1) Flowing hair 1793; (2) Coronet Type 1816-on. If you want 3 "types," you must either be using "Flowing Hair with Sprig" separate from the one without sprig, or more likely breaking the 1816-1857 into (2) Coronet Type 1816-39, and (3) "Braided hair" type (smaller head) 1839-43 as your 2nd & 3rd "types" not used on  $\frac{1}{2}\phi$ .

Q. #4. Name the half cent variety which develops obverse rimbreak like the cent; name the 2 half cent varieties which develop reverse rimbreak like the cent; 1804 being the date of all coins for this Q. Obverse is Gilbert #5 (Cohen #9); reverse would be Gilbert #8 (= CMM #6) and Gilbert #9 (= Cohen #7).

Q. #5. Name the dates in which more half cent varieties are known than large cents; name the 2 dates in which they were equal in number. Here's your ringer? For more  $\frac{1}{2}\phi$  than  $\phi$ , try 1804, 1805, 1806, & 1809 only. For equal numbers, try 1808, 1811, and 1832. Unless there is an 1832 Newcomb variety discovered since W.E. Johnson's supplement-to-Newcomb #LC167B, the 1832's have 3 varieties!

Q. #5. (Another ringer.) For Alvord sale 1793-97's, there were 56 coins. How many were catalogued as Uncirculated? I find from my copy of Alvord, kindly given me by Mr. Cohen, thanks, that there were 72 lots (1 withdrawn, so 71 coins) for 1793-97. Eight coins were graded Unc., none after lot #56, so we can use 56 lots or the full 72 lots 1793-97 and get the same answer.

Thanx for a fun quiz!!

Yours truly,

Paul Munson, EAC #15

①

4/4

July 31, 1972

Dear Mr. Cohen

Being a new member of EAC this will be the first time I've tried to answer one of the quizzes. Before I start, let me say I enjoyed your new book very much. It's quite an improvement over Gilbert's & Bower's former works. I have one suggestion that I would like to see added, that is to have a much more expanded section on proof only issues. I have an original 1836 and second restrike of 1847.

I also thought that your book could be able to give an accurate mintage figure (or at least a fairly good estimate of the number of proof pieces held by collectors and museums today) by putting adds in Coin World and ~~such~~

(2)

at the same time advertising your excellent work.

I hope this idea could be included in a revised edition as I would be the first to buy it.

Now ~~at~~ to the quiz; question

① I believe is Gilbert who with Elder did a work on 1796 cents.

Question ② I used the 26 edition of the red book for mintage figures and came up with (if my adding isn't wrong) 22,955,890 large cents and 5,235,512 half cents or approx. 4.38 large cents were coined to each half cent.

Question ③ I feel is tricky. The one reverse design is the 1793 chain. Two obverse designs I'm sure of are the 1793 flowing hair and the Coronet type of 1816-35. But I think I would

③

say the S-80 or 1795 Jefferson Head would be the third. The last one I'm not sure of since there are many sub varieties of the Coronet type but I'll go with S-80.

Question ④ I was glad to have your book as the obverse is G-5 or your #9 and the reverses are G-8 and G-9 or your #6 and 7.

Question ⑤ is in 1804, 1805, 1806 and 1809 There were more half cent varieties than large cents and in 1808 and 1811 they were the same

Question ⑤½ Even though this is only ½ a point I spent an entire day trying to get the information. Being that I don't happen to have a copy of that catalog and being that I live 25 miles from New York City, I went



(4)

there to find the answer.

First I went to Stock's only to find that they couldn't find a copy, then to Lester Merkin's only to remember he's closed on vacation, then to where I felt sure I'd get the information, the AHS.

This was the first time I've ever been there so I took advantage of this and examined all there exhibits. I was really quite surprised as to how good they were.

But on to answering the question. Upon looking up the card catalog I found a June 9, 1924 sale who's owner was a F. G. Simpson of 493 lots. Being that you stated Alvard's collection was only 56 coins I felt sure that it was incorporated in that

⑤

Sale, so to the file cabinet with The S.H. Chapman catalog's I went. With the AHS having every catalog of his from the 1890's up, would you believe that that sale was the only one missing from the file.

I brought this to the attention of one of the librarians but he couldn't find it either, so the above information was all I was able to find.

I thought of sending to the AHA library but doubt if I'd get it before the deadline

So that's all the questions I can answer. I thought the quiz was excellent and would like to see another, perhaps strictly on half cents, in the near future, and wish your book the

⑥

best as it certainly is the  
best.

Sincerely,

Roy A. Rauch  
90-12 215 Place  
Queens Village, N.Y.  
11428

9 3/4

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Even though I am not yet a member of EAC, I do completely devour my friends copy of Penny-Wise. I would like to respond to your Half of Penny Quiz.

1. Ebenezer Gilbert, U.S. Half Cents, 1793-1857  
and The varieties of the U.S. Cents of 1796.
2. About 4 large cents for every half cent.
3. Obverses - Chain (1793)      Reverse - Chain  
              - Wreath (1793)  
              - Coronet Type
4. Obverse break - 1804 CMM #9  
    Reverse break - 1804 CMM #6 and #7
5. More half cent varieties: 1804      (13 to 1)  
                                  1805      ( 4 to 3)  
                                  1806      ( 4 to 1)  
                                  1809      ( 6 to 1)  
    Equal number of varieties 1808      ( 3 each)  
                                  1811      ( 2 each)
- 5½. 40. This is a totally ignorant guess.

I hope to be able to write to you soon and tell you of my addiction to the half sisters. Your book is great!!

Sincerely,

John Logan



Rod Burress  
9830 Overview Lane  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231

Dear Roger

Aug 10, 1972

Here are my Penny Quiz answers:

- ① 1. Gilbert
- ② 2. Approx 22.5 million large cents from 1793-1814  
vs 5.2 million half cents or slightly better  
than 4 to 1.
- ③ 3. Three obverse designs of large cents not used on  
half cents:
- Flowing hair obverse of Chain-Wreath Cents
  - Matron Head 1816-35
  - Head of 1836-39
  - Booby Head
  - Silly Head
  - Head of 1839 (TYPE 4) thru 1843 (TYPE OF 42)
- these could  
be grouped  
many ways

Reverse design not used on half cent:

- Chain

- ① 4. 1804 Half Cent with similar obv rim break = #9  
 " " " " rev " " = #6  
 " " " " " " = #7

5. Years in which there are more half cent varieties than large cent varieties:

1804 1805 1806 1809

Years in which number of varieties is the same:

1811 1832

needed  
more

5 1/2. I have no reference material available on this one.

Thank you for your effort in making up this quiz. I have a lot to learn about half cents.

Sincerely,

Rod

4 3/4

Half of Penny Quiz  
(you are a card!)

Aug. 14 MAIL  
1 day under  
the line

I wonder if half answers would win!

#1 - Well lets see, it has to be Gilbert or Elder  
and I guess it has to be Elder 'US Conty 1796'.

#2 - Less than 4 to 1

#3 - ① obv of chain cuts + rev of chain cuts ① Rev.

② obviously the Jefferson Hdb

③ I think this was one of the late dates like 1837 plain fair coin  
or something about which I know little

#4 - Similar obv - Cohen 8

" Rev - Cohen 6 (final die state)  
and I suppose Cohen 7

#5 - 1804, 1805, 1806, (1808 is tied), 1809, (1811 is tied)  
(1830 is really tied)  
Can you have a half of a variety? Ha!

5 1/2 - Don't know where to find this information  
but I would bet that this is a tricky  
question, that a lot of them were proofs  
and therefore did not count. That is really  
a wild one since no proofs are listed or  
probably known in those years. I'd just  
guess - 60%.

NOTS OF FULL! Even the Jim straining to  
get ready to go to Louisiana  
in the morning - Ray Chatham  
Hawson, Mo. 64062

1013, "16  
2500  
Aug 5/72  
Prof. Wm. A. Lipp

72 Aug 22nd Lb.

Rochester NY 11210

Dear Warren,

The enclosure with your letter of June 8, 1972  
also enclosing the answer to Half of Jimmy's  
from August 29th.

I am also enclosing My Check for \$45 to Columbia  
My ad on my list for the next 3 issues. However  
if you can't fit it into the September 15th issue then  
run the ad for the next 3 issues.

I am also enclosing a fill-in article on the  
availability of Half Cents at the recent Post Convention

As usual you are free to edit, remove  
libelous statements, correct misspelling etc.

Sincerely

Boyer



### Answers to Half of Penny Quiz

The response to "Half of Penny Quiz" was most gratifying. Answers were received from the following:

Ray A. Beach (NY)	Ray Chatham (MC)	Louis Sass (FLA)
Paul Munson (NH)	John Cogan (GA)	Charles Funk (CAN)
W. R. T. Smith (IL)	Gordon Harnack (ND)	Carl Windon (CAL)
Thomas Wolf (FLA)	L. A. Johnson (MINN)	Rod Burress (OHIO)
Bob Yuell (MS)		

The best paper was submitted by Louis C. Sass of Miami, Florida, who noted that Paul Munson by some hair detail above the brow. Mr. Sass has been awarded the prize of one genuine U. S. Half Cent.

All papers submitted were very good, and provided some surprises for the quizmaster. Apparently many other EAC members have noted the similarity between the "Little Half Sisters" and their larger relative.

On question No. 1, every paper had this answered correctly, with Ebenezer Gilbert. Two persons interjected the idea that possibly Tom Elder was the author of United States Cents of 1796, and quoted from page 22 of Penny Whimsy. After reading this I am more convinced that the actual author was Gilbert. Elder acted only as editor and publisher.

Question No. 2. Only one person missed the answer to this question. This was because somehow he got mixed up on the number of Large Cents coined. The answer is: "Approximately four Large Cents to every Half Cent." The purpose of this question was to illustrate that if a collector is interested in the early Large Cents, the Half Cents should be a relatively easy field to master, and that at the time of their coinage there was more popular acceptance of the Half Cent than in later years.

The third question proved to be almost chaotic. There is one thing of which I am absolutely sure and that is that Large Cent collectors are not in agreement as to what constitutes an obverse design on the Large Cent. In preparing this question, I had referred to Penny Whimsy, in which Dr. Sheldon quotes the types of Large Cents from Frossard's book. The types mentioned are the Chain, the Wreath, the Liberty Cap, the Draped Bust, the Coronet, and the Braided Hair. In scoring this question, as long as the Flowing Hair (Chain Type) and the Flowing Hair with Sprig (Wreath Type) and the Coronet Head were in the answer, the person got full credit. Other interesting heads mentioned were the Jefferson Head (S-80), the Booby Head, the Silly Head, and even the Draped Bust of 1796 to 1798 without the added curls. I am sorry if I misled anyone. As far as the reverse design not used on the Half Cent, everyone mentioned the 1793 Chain.

4. This question seemed very straightforward, but there were still some persons who missed part of it. The obverse break on CMM #8 (G-7) occasionally was mentioned in place of the rim break over RTY, which occurs on CMM #9 (G-5). On the reverse, everyone was able to pick up CMM #6 (G-8), but quite a few missed CMM #7 (G-9). The July 15, 1970 issue of "Penny-Wise" has an enlarged photograph of this variety with a very large rim break.

5. On this question, five of the answers picked up a mistake that I had made. Perhaps I should study Newcomb's book more closely as these people picked up the fact that in 1832 there were three varieties of the Half Cent and three varieties of the Large Cent. My apologies to everyone. However, everybody got full credit and to those who mentioned my omission<sup>of</sup> 1832, I awarded an additional half point in the scoring.

5½. As stated in the original quiz, since this question was only on Half Cents, it counted only half a point, but the answers received were very interesting. The purpose of the question was to write an answer pointing out that out of the 72 lots in the Alvord collection covering the years 1793-1797, only eight were uncirculated, thus showing the great scarcity of uncirculated Half Cents in this period of their coinage. There was an error made in this question also, and I quote from Paul Munson's answer. "I find from my copy of Alvord, kindly given to me by Mr. Cohen, thanks, that there were 72 lots." The original question, due to a typographical error, stated that there were 56 lots. Most papers attempted to answer this question, and two had the correct answer. One person received half credit as he was the only person who guessed correctly that Half Cents of this period are rare in uncirculated condition. Mr. Rauch wrote a very interesting account of his fruitless search in New York for a copy of the Alvord catalogue. Another point to the question is the extreme rarity of this catalogue today.

I must say that I enjoyed myself immensely, and I hope that those who read the answers will get as much information as I got in receiving them.



	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>107</u>
UNC	1	11				2
EF	1		1			2
VF						15
F	1					11
VG	11	      	1			19
G	1	1		1		9
Very Poor				1		1
FR			1		1	2
Very Poor					1	1
No Metal		1	1			2
Worn/Flattened			1			1
POOR					1	1
	11	26	18	2	15	72

Alvord Collection 1793-1797